(b) The main reason for the difference between the two prices is the Government's policy to make available these commodities to the common people, particularly the weaker and vulnerable sections of society at reasonable prices. The variation is also to some extent influenced by the demand for and supply of each commodity.

(c) The market prices of essential commodities have moved up during the last 3 years at varying rates.

(d) The main thrust of the Government policy is to improve the availability of essential commodities by increased production, better and larger coverage by the public distribution system, imports wherever necessary, regulation of exports and enforcement of the various provisions under the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations. It has been impressed upon State Governments from time to time to take drastic action against those sons selling commodities at prices higher than fixed by the Government.

Cashew Plantation programme under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

2576. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where cashew plantation programme has been undertaken under centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) whether such schemes have been implemented in Orissa;

(c) if so, what is the total areas in different districts of Orissa which have been covered under cashew plantation programme so far; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The centrally sponsored scheme on package programme on cashewnut is being implemented in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Prodesh ,Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Orissa, West Bengal, Tripura and Union Territories of Goa and Pondicherrey.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An area of 17,144 hectare has been covered under centrally sponsored scheme on cashewanut developent in the districts of Ganjam, Puri, Dhen-Kanal, Cuttach, Keonjhar, Koraput, Balasore and Mayurbhanj in Orissa.

(d) Under the schemes on subsidised area expansion programme and under vegetative propagation programme on area of 14,011 hectare and 3133 hectare respectively have been covered in Orissa.

2577. *[Transferred to the 17th December, 1985].*

Price Support for purchase of Soyabean

2578. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited has finalised arrangements for puchase of soyabean and other Kharif oilseeds for 1985-86 seson;

(b) whether the price support operation has been finalised by NAFED and its constituent state level marketing federations and marketing socieieis;

(c) whether the Central Government have designated NAFED as the nodal agency for a period of 5 years for undertaking price support in kharif oilseeds;

(d) whether the NAFED has undertaken price support perations in soyabean between 1977-78 and 1980-81; and

(e) whether the production of soyabean in the country has incerased from th level of 1.5 lakhs tonnes in 1977-78 to the level of 10 lakhs tonnes at present as a result thereof??

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) In October, 1985, the Government designated NAFED as the nodal agency for price